



Dear Teacher,

It is time once again for the staff of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park to bring "The River Trip" to a wilderness near you! During our Living History interpretation you and your class will be transported back in time to a fur trapping camp along the Sacramento River in the 1840s. Your class will get the chance to experience four stations that make up the complex operations of the camp.

At the **Traders Tent** the class will appoint a **Group Leader** to negotiate the hunting rights with the visiting trappers. The Group Leader is representative of the **Big Man** or **Chief** who was important in the culture of Central Valley Indians. Students will learn about the short term benefit and longer term deleterious impact of trading with the trappers. At the **Hunters Tent** and the **Camp Keepers** area the class will learn the many challenges faced in keeping a large encampment of trappers fed and healthy in the wilderness. At this station we also examine the role of women on the frontier and the difficulties of maintaining a home in the wilderness. Finally, at the **Trappers Tent** the class will learn just what brought this group to the wilds of California.

These presentations will demonstrate many aspects of the human history, natural history, and social and material cultures of the Sacramento Valley in the 1840s. Many in our younger generations do not understand how different life and customs were before automobiles and television. To bridge this gap in language and culture we take the time to have a question and answer period and explain it all at the end of the program. The entire presentation takes 2 hours. The fee for the program is \$4.00 for each person who attends, both adults and students.

This year we will be encamped at Red Bluff from Tuesday October 1st until Friday October 4th 2013. We will then move our camp to Colusa from Tuesday October 8th until Friday October 11th. We will also have plenty of wilderness souvenirs available at the on-site gift shop at both locations for groups who are interested.

If you are interested in having your class participate in this North Valley tradition, please visit our website at www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort. On the right side of the page you will find a River Trip Program link. At the link you will find an information sheet and the River Trip Application. It is easy to reach us if you need more information. You can either e-mail us at stbeck@parks.ca.gov, or call **Program Lead Steve Beck** at **916 323-8112**.

Please plan on joining us for this experience of a lifetime.

Steve Beck
Program Coordinator
Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

